# Leo J. Muir Elementary School EXPARTE OR LATE FILED Bountiful, Utah 84010 DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL (801) 299-2010

Ofelia G. Wade, Principal

RECEIVED

Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St. NW. Room 844 Washington, D.C., 20054

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and lifelong learner can have access to the world of information technology. Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affectable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in character the services needs to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You.

Jalu Bank

Understaned Faculty and Staff Members Les J. Myin Elementary Davis County School Mistrict, Utah Marion Jangole Suspine Hannes terry Aufor May Blade Kaelfun Swenson Kaye Bonner Horanne De Turange John Y. Wile Austra M. Gothy Down Sarser Maradene B. Heap Shave From marcin mand Kothu Whasou-19 Mete Page Marcy Bradolan Ha Levereaux Addition Ganet Eggers

West Bountiful School

750 West 400 North West Bountiful, Utah 84087 (801) 299-2022



E. Maynard Whitesides, Principal

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 2, 1997

Federal Communications Out inission Office of Securitary

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Thank You,

**Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members** 

Davis County School District, Utah

Carolo Zesser KNIN (NON) Tem Myra Thornley

## Samuel Morgan Schoon NATE OF LATE FILED

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April 2, 1997

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Thank You,

Marilyn Oberg

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Samuel Morgan Elementary
(Name of schools)

Davis County School District, Utah

1065 Thornfield Road

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MAY 1 - 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner (September 1918) A. St. 1919. Regn. 8-4
Washingers, D.C., 20054

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Thank You, Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members Davis County School District, Utah Seatrice R. Schofuld Shila Steine Jalie Ecoliman Susan Mills nancy Frazier Kol Vandege harles E Power Han Jurier Carol Malmestrom Lundia Trumama Thristine S. McCullough ameron L Habrerse

# DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



## School District of Beloit

Committed to Excellence • Strengthened by Diversity

Rosa A. Smith, Ph.D. Superintendent

April 14, 1996

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner:

Thank you for your efforts and consideration of using a portion of the Universal Service Fund for establishing an "e-rate" telecommunications discount for schools.

Our district is fortunate to have the cooperation of the local college to share a T-1 line which is connected to our high school. By sharing the line our cost is \$865 per month, a savings of \$455 per month by not having our own line. As both Beloit College and our use grows, the sharing of one line will no longer be feasible. The rest of our fifteen schools are connected to the high school with ISDN lines for an annual cost of \$14,000. The combined annual cost of \$24,400 is providing only second rate service to two-thirds of our population of 7,000 students.

Recently one of our school board members questioned the value of the Internet in classroom instruction. His comment was not intended to discount the value of the Internet for instruction, but to highlight down time as students and teachers wait for connections to be made and information to be accessed. Unfortunately, he's right! Second-rate telecommunication infrastructure will waste many hours of instructional time for each student every year. We can ill afford to ignore or obscure the current situation. Students, eager to learn will soon be turned-off if we are unable to provide them with appropriate and responsive learning opportunities.

The proposed recommendation by the Federal-State Joint Board will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide appropriate distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion will only <a href="help">help</a> to address the needs of all our schools and bring services directly to the classroom. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

Schools across the country are under tremendous fiscal pressure to keep budgets low. Beloit has already eliminated over \$2.5 million from it's already fairly austere budget. Summer school has been eliminated, facility repair and upkeep curtailed, a number of support positions eliminated and supply and equipment budgets are down 25% from four years ago. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service to schools.

Sincerely,

Rosa A. Smith, Ph.D.



990 East 700 South Clearfield, Utah 84015 (801) 774 - 7417

April 2, 1997

# South Clearfield Elementary School Panthers

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL Dick C. Close Principal

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MAY 1 1997

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The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St. NW, Room 844 Washington, D.C., 20054

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990 East 700 South Clearfield, Utah 84015 (801) 774 - 7417

## South Clearfield Elementary School Panthers

Dick C. Close Principal

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Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

South Clearfuld Elementary

Davis County School District, Utah

Royal WEakkel

Junia Bakkel

Michiel Henry

Michiel Vandyke

Glava Westowe

anna Pollaid

Jara Billett Bates

Mildred W. Bates

Heather Dalton Amarita Miller

Lisa Story Wendyk arac

Kathy Benne

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440 First Street, NW, Suite 450 Washington, DC 20001 (202) 783-5550 (202) 783-1583 (Fax) DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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MAY 1 1997 Fedan

National Association of County & City Health Officials

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong Commissioner Federal Communications Commission Room 844 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: Universal Service and Telehealth

#### Dear Commissioner Chong:

The National Association of County and City Health Officials would like to reiterate, with a sense of urgency, its strong support for favorable action by the FCC in implementing the provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Act that concern rural health care providers. These provisions will have important ramifications for rural health departments and health care providers, and therefore, for the health of the nation. There are about 3,000 local health departments nationwide. Forty-four percent of these health departments serve populations less than 25,000, and about two-thirds serve populations less than 50,000.

Assuring that all local health departments have access to telecommunications is critically important. For example, local health departments need to obtain instantaneous information regarding epidemics and imminent public health threats, such as food-borne disease or cases of highly infectious disease, in order to take prompt steps to protect the citizens in their jurisdictions. They need timely access to medical information and treatment protocols, which many can use in their own clinics and health centers. In addition, access to public health and medical information is needed so that it can be passed on to other providers. Local health departments are charged with assuring the quality of the health systems in their areas and for assuring the health of the population. Immediate, up-to-date information is essential.

Local health departments need connectivity also for distance-based training and learning. Many video training programs currently exist, and more would be developed if all rural health departments could easily connect.

For these reasons, we strongly support subsidization of rural health care providers, including rural public health departments, for distance charges and access to the Internet through Universal Service Funds. Providing telecommunications rates for rural health providers comparable to

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong page 2

those for urban providers is sound policy that will serve the public interest in using the best available technology to preserve and promote the public's health.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rawding

**Executive Director** 

6100 Carillon Point Kirkland WA 98033

A ROYAL PAKHOED COMPANY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To:

'Commissioner Rachelle Chong'

Company:

Fax number:

+1 (202) 418-2820

Business phone:

From:

Steve Dennis

Fax number:

+1 (206) 889-4110

Business phone:

Home phone:

Date & Time:

4/24/97 6:41:45 PM

Pages:

2

Re:

Proposed FCC Subscriber Line Charge Increases



A ROYAL PAKHOED COMPANY

6100 Carillon Point Kirkland, WA 98033 (425)889-3818 (425)889-4110

MAY 1 199

Foderal Community of Commission
Office of Security

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St. NW Room 844 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely:

Steven E. Dennis

Network Architect



P.O. Box 280 • 220 5th Avenue • Turtle Lake, North Dakota 58575 • (701)448-2331

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

SENT BY FAX: 202-418-2820

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 25, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW - Suite 844 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Chong:

I am writing in regards to the FCC's upcoming vote concerning the "universal policy" on the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Community Memorial Hospital has had a Telemedicine Program in place for nearly 2 years with St. Alexius Medical Center located in Bismarck, ND which is approximately 60 miles from our local community of Turtle Lake. Our present costs for Telemedicine lines are \$1,100 monthly to maintain this service to our local patients. Our facility wants to maintain quality medical services to our local communities.

Telemedicine is a vital tool in making vital patient assessments, physician education, and referral patterns through rural hospitals. We wish to continue those services to our patients. However, if the cost to provide the Telemedicine programs to a rural area continue to be this expensive, there is little if any benefit to the rural hospitals to continue these services. All we ask is to be on an even playing field with the urban communities.

1 encourage you to support subsidies to the rural hospitals schools, and libraries and make our country more "communication friendly" as you vote on the "universal service" policy on the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Dale Aman Administrator



P.O. Box 280 • 220 5th Avenue • Turtie Lake, North Dakota 58575 • (701)448-2331

Fax #: 701-448-2441 Phone #: 701-448-2331

TO FIRM: Jedual Communication Commission

TO INDIVIDUAL: Rachelle Chong

FROM: C. M. 7+

NAME: Dale Aman

DEPARTMENT: Administration

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 DATE: 04-25-97

(Include FAX Cover Page)

IF NECESSARY, CONTACT:

NAME: Mayull Lauren

TELEPHONE: 701-448-2331

#### ATTENTION:

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University of Cincinnati **Medical Center** 



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MAY 1 1997

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CC 96-45

Medical Center Academic Information **Technology and Libraries** Office of the Director University of Cincinnati PO Box 670574 Cincinnati OH 45267-0574

231 Bethesda Avenue Phone (513) 558-5656 (513) 558-2682

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong. Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a member of the FCC Advisory Committee on Telecommunications and Health Care. I am also representative of the Medical Library Association and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries. In these capacities, I urge you to support a "universal service" policy that provides rural access and costs equal to the same services provided in urban areas. This means that telecommunication rates should be "distance insensitive" and that access to an Internet service provider should be a local or toll-free call. To do otherwise would, in my opinion, both undermine the intent of Congress and take the teeth out of the "universal service" provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

J. Roger Guard Director

Patient Care • Education • Research • Community Service

University of Cincinnati Medical Center



**Medical Center Academic Information Technology and Libraries** Office of the Director University of Cincinnati PO Box 670574 Cincinnati OH 45267-0574

231 Bethesda Avenue Phone (513) 558-5656 Fax (513) 558-2682

### **FAX Transmission Cover Sheet**

TO:	The	Honorable Rachelle Chong
FROM:	Roge	r Guard
DATE: _		4/28/97
FAX NO	).:	1-202-418-2820
PHONE	NO	1-202-418-2200
MESSAGE:		

Patient Care • Education • Research • Community Service

Number of pages including cover sheet: \_\_\_\_\_





## Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Cheryl L. Parrino, Chairman Daniel J. Eastman, Commissioner Joseph P. Mettner, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way P.O. Box 7854 DE PARTE OR LATIMENTED WI 53707-7854

April 28, 1997

BY FAX & BY MAIL DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Chairman Reed Hundt Commissioner James Quello Commissioner Susan Ness Commissioner Rachelle Chong Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Washington DC 20554

Re:

In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Next week you will be making one of the most important decisions on telecommunications since divestiture. Structuring a universal service plan to assure reasonably available and affordable services to all is a challenge, and your determinations will be critical to the entire nation.

The universal service decision will address many issues, on most of which there are divergent points of view. All the issues are complex or controversial. I would like to share some brief observations and opinions on a few of these items.

#### Proxy Models

I understand the goal of proxy models as used in the universal service context is to simplify the process of determining costs. Based on experience, I recognize that cost studies are expensive and can be time intensive from a regulatory perspective. I would like to see a process that minimizes costs and regulatory intervention; however, I agree with Joint Board Commissioner Julia Johnson that none of the proxies in this proceeding is ready for use. On this matter, I urge you not to make a final decision. As this whole cost issue is examined in the months ahead, I would encourage the FCC (and the continuing Joint Board) to consider more reliance on state commission efforts to identify the costs of service.

#### Transition Plan

I support the position of the state members of the Joint Board that encourages use of the alternative transition plan as part of the overall universal service decision. The initial Joint Board decision presents a grave potential to harm rural areas and actually diminish universal service. The alternative plan maintains more support for rural areas and companies. It offers continued incentives for infrastructure investment, avoids an immediate potential for local rate increases, and supports expanded service and growth in the rural areas.

The various provisions of the transition plan, including continued universal service support for second residential lines and business lines, will protect universal service in all parts of the nation.

> Fax: (608) 266-3957 TTY: (608) 267-1479

Chairman Reed Hundt and Commissioners Federal Communications Commission Page 2

#### The Universal Service Challenge

I am very aware of the challenge this case presents. As a commissioner for several years, I have been in your shoes as you attempt to minimize costs while maintaining support for the many goals encompassed in the concept of universal service. I believe attention to meeting these goals is of paramount importance. Meeting all these needs may require a measured and reasoned approach that recognizes all goals may not be achievable at once. The impacts of these universal service provisions on local rates could be so high as to negate the very intentions of the universal service fund programs. It would be the ultimate irony if steps taken to protect and promote universal service were in fact a contributor to its downfall.

#### Joint Boards

The Joint Board process is not painless, but it works. I support continued reliance on this process to shepherd further universal service changes. I applaud the public comments by Chairman Hundt on a commitment to ongoing Joint Board involvement. The work of the separations Joint Board—in process now—will be a critical input in the ongoing evaluation of universal service.

#### Access Charges

Some access charge reductions are needed; however, careful weighing of goals is required. Overzealous access charge reductions could jeopardize support for rural areas and low income customers and increase pressures for increases in local rates.

In conclusion, I support your efforts and recognize your challenge. I encourage you to consider these comments as you deliberate these important issues.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Parrino

Chairman

CLP:GAE:jah:h:\ss\letter\FCCJoint BdUSF-4-28-97-GAE

cc: Brad. Ramsay, NARUC
John F O'Neal, NRTA
Michael E. Brunner, NTCA
John N. Rose, OPASTCO
Roy M. Neel, USTA
Governor Tommy G. Thompson



### Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Cheryl L. Parrino, Chairman Daniel J. Eastman, Commissioner Joseph P. Mettner, Commissioner 610 North Whitney Way P.O. Box 7854 Madison, WI 53707-7854

### **Facsimile Cover Sheet**

**DATE:** April 28, 1997

**NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 3** 

TO: Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong 202-418-2820

FROM: Chairman Cheryl L. Parrino

COMMENTS: PLEASE DELIVER ASAP. THANK YOU.

If you encounter any problems during this transmission, please contact Cathy Howard immediately at (608) 266-1265.

h:\cah\forms\generic.FAX

Phone: (608) 266-5481 Fax: (608) 266-3957

Home Page: http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/psc/

### PEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

900 CAMPUS DRIVE FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

#### FRANK A. SPEARMAN PRINCIPAL

HENRY TERHUNE VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR

ANDREW CARTER ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CYNTHIA STATHAM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SUSAN PEARSON SENIOR COUNSELOR

ISABELL BYAS 10TH GRADE COUNSELOR

TOM FIBBE FRESHMAN COUNSELOR

RODNEY WALKER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

NAOMI SIMMONS LIBRARIAN

SUSAN BARFIELD LIBRARIAN

**CHRIS RADER** LITERARY COORDINATOR

VIRGINIA CLARK BOOKKEEPER

JAMIE BAILEY RECORDS CLERK

MINNIE BOOKER RECEPTIONIST

AMY FULLER COMPUTER ATTENDANT

LINDA SMITH COUNSELOR'S SECRETARY TELEPHONE: 912 825-8258 FAX: 912 825-2290

DATE: 4/25/97

FAX NO. 202) 418-2820

FAX TO: Hox. Rachelle B. Chang

COMMENTS:



TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER\_ &

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



CC 96-45

**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED** 

HENRY L. BARTON DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

JACQUELINE P. FARRELL CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ILONA G. JULIUS DEPUTY CLERK

April 23, 1997

MAY 1 1997

Federal Commission Vision Commission Office of Supplier

Rochelle B. Chong, Commissioner Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 1919 M Street Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Enclosed please find a copy of the following **sense resolution** which was adopted by the Suffolk County Legislature on April 15, 1997:

<u>Sense Resolution No. 12-1997</u> - MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE ACTION TO REGULATE USE OF PERSONAL PAGERS FOR TELEMARKETING

It would be appreciated if you would indicate the **sense resolution number** when responding. Should you have any questions, please contact Karen Levasseur at (516) 852-1709 or in writing to me at the Suffolk County Legislature, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York 11901-3398.

Very truly yours,

Ilona G Juliu

Enc. IGJ:kml